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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Prevention Week to be held October 5-11, 2014

Kerrville, Texas (September 29, 2014) – The [National Fire Protection Association](http://www.nfpa.org) (NFPA), the official sponsor of [Fire Prevention Week](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) (FPW) for more than 90 years, is gearing up to officially kick off this year's campaign, October 5-11, 2014. The theme is "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"

Smoke alarms can help make the difference between life and death in a fire, but they need to be working. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign reinforces the importance of testing smoke alarms each month, and works to ensure that people have the needed protection in the event of a home fire.

Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire in half. While research shows that most U.S. homes have at least one smoke alarm, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. The common presence of smoke alarms in the home tends to create a false sense of security. Simply having smoke alarms isn't enough. They need to be tested and maintained properly.

In addition to monthly testing, smoke alarms should be installed and maintained as follows:

- There should be at least one smoke alarm on every level of the home (including the basement), all sleeping areas, and in every bedroom.
- For smoke alarms that include a 10-year non-replaceable battery, replace the entire smoke alarm if it begins to “chirp”, indicating that the battery is running low. For smoke alarms that use regular batteries, replacing the batteries once a year is recommended, or before then if the battery begins to chirp.
- All smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years or immediately if they don’t respond properly when tested.
- For the best protection, smoke alarms should be interconnected, so that when one alarm sounds, they all do.

The NFPA Fire Prevention Week website (www.fpw.org) and Sparky the Fire Dog® website (www.sparky.org) offers a wealth of smoke alarm information and resources for parents and teachers, and for fire departments working to implement the campaign in their communities.

The Kerrville Fire Department will be visiting local schools during Fire Prevention Week to educate children on fire safety and drills. The children will also receive a goody bag with fire safety information. “Fire prevention is key to saving lives and saving property,” said Chris Lee, Fire Marshall. “Fire codes have been around since the early 1800’s in an effort to

provide proactive measures and prevent fires. Over 3,000 people lose their lives to fires each year.”

In addition to visiting schools, the Kerrville Fire Department also provides free smoke detectors and assists with installation for those that need it. Smoke detectors can be picked up at the Fire Administration Building at 87 Coronado Drive, Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

In addition to providing smoke detectors, the Fire Department also assists families with creating escape plans. “As well as having smoke alarms, it’s important to practice drills monthly,” said Lee. “Be sure to include one night practice, when the children will need to be woken up and get outside to the designated meeting place safely.”

Escape Planning Tips:

- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, at least twice a year or preferably monthly.
- Practice using different ways out.

- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Close doors behind you as you leave.

For additional information contact Ashlea Boyle, Special Projects Manager at (830) 258-1153 via e-mail to ashlea.boyle@kerrvilletx.gov or visit the city's website at www.kerrvilletx.gov.

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